--- RG-36 - CANADA CUSTOMS - Cigar stamps - “Series of 1868”- “XXXI VICT. - CAP. VIII” ---

--- lithographed in BLUE ink on unwatermarked wove - the design measures 93 x 93 mm. ---

--- perforated 10 - with 5 mm. control numbers - scanned at 100% scale ---

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1st BABN Contract (1868-1873) — John McKay reports 67,500 *lithographed* copies of “Square Cigars” as ‘delivered’ - probably **RG-36**. He does not specify the colour of these stamps, but generally does not report on Burland lithographed stamps. Later in the 1st Contract he records 236,000 *lithographed* copies of “Square Tobacco (Customs)”. These are undoubtedly the blue BOXES stamp **RM-62**.

2nd BABN Contract (1873-1878) — John McKay records the delivery of 100,000 *lithographed* copies of “Blue Tobacco, Square”- which I again list as **RM-62**.

3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886) — John McKay makes no mention of “Square Blue Tobacco”, or of “Square Cigars” stamps.

The catalogue lists the “Series of 1868” square blue lithographed cigar stamps as follows:

RG-36 - Cigars, blue, square, perf 10, lithographed on *unwmkd* wove - with 5 mm. red control numbers
RG-37† - Cigars, blue, square, imperf, lithographed on *unwmkd* wove - with twin 5 mm. blue control numbers

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RG-36 - Cigars, square, blue, perf 10, on unwmkd wove, with 5 mm. red control number **041017**, used at *Toronto* on *Dec. 12th, 1870*, with Entry No. *9683*, signed by *James B. Smith*

000306		RG-36	Cigars, blue, perf 10, on *unwmkd* vertical mesh wove
000307		RG-36	Cigars, blue, perf 10, on *unwmkd* vertical mesh wove
000314★		RG-36	Cigars, blue, perf 10, on *unwmkd* vertical mesh wove
000315		RG-36	Cigars, blue, perf 10, on *unwmkd* vertical mesh wove
002244★		RG-36	Cigars, blue, perf 10, on *unwmkd* vertical mesh wove
041017★	12/70	RG-36	Cigars, blue, perf 10, on *unwmkd* vertical mesh wove, used at *Toronto*, on *Dec. 12, 1870*, Entry No. *9683*
047299	1879	RG-36	Cigars, blue, perf 10, on *unwmkd* vertical mesh wove, used at *Montreal*, Entry No. *22019*

--- RG-36a - with twinned *blue control* numbers ---

RG-37a - Cigars, square, blue, perf 10, on unwmkd wove, with twin 5 mm. blue controls **061001** and **061250**,
used at *Toronto* on *Dec. 12th, 1870*, with Entry No. *9683* - scanned at 75% scale,
the back is inscribed in pencil *Peculiarity in numbering*

034001 - **034250**	RG-37	Canada Customs, CIGARS, blue, *imperf*, on *unwmkd* vertical mesh wove
061001 - **061250★**	RG-37a	Canada Customs, CIGARS, blue, p*erf 10*, on *unwmkd* vertical mesh *wove*

The Lee Brandom catalogue illustrates an imperforate copy of **RG-37** with twin blue control numbers **034001** and **034250**. Due to the identical dating and Entry Numbers on **RG-36** (see below), on the twinned blue control numbered stamp, I have suspected that these twinned blue control numbered items are forgeries made on remainder copies. However, John McKay lists 67,500 lithographs as 'delivered'.

RG-36 - Square, blue, CIGARS, perf 10, on unwmkd wove, with 5 mm. control **041017**,
used at *Toronto* on *Dec. 12th, 1870*, with Entry No. *9683*, signed by *James B. Smith*

RG-37a - Square, blue, CIGARS, perf 10, on unwmkd wove, with twin 5 mm. controls **061001** and **061250**,
used at *Toronto* on *Dec. 12th, 1870*, with Entry No. *9683*, signed by *James B. Smith*

Since both of the recorded examples show a jump of **250** in the blue control numbers, it is possible that the stamp was used by Toronto Customs on a case of 250 boxes of cigars. When opened, the individual cigar boxes were thus 'import duty' paid and could be stamped locally for 'excise'. Who has additional examples of the item?

[Chris Ryan, "Canadian Revenue Newsletter", No. 39, of May 2002]

"From its formation in 1867, through to 1881, the 'Customs Department' made their own separate arrangements with BABN for the blue stamps used on imported tobacco products. As a consequence of this, the initial Customs versions of the BABN stamps did not appear until 1869".

According to BABN records 'square' and 'strip' stamps were ordered, but only examples of the square stamp are currently known to this writer. These square Customs stamps were issued *only* with serial numbers on or under the Queen's head, having no previous un-numbered versions other than proofs and specimens. The initial supply of these stamps was delivered by BABN to the 'Customs Department' in March of 1869."

File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RG_STAMPS \ 1868 \ Blue \ square stamp],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
October 5th 2013 - JBH